



NIEHS

## Worker Education and Training Program

April 21-23, 2004  
Washington, DC

**Training Partnerships for Prevention, Protection and Preparedness:  
A Conference to Build Stronger Partnerships On Disaster Response Training**

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### MEETING NOTES FROM KEYNOTE ON EPA'S EFFORTS IN HOMELAND SECURITY

**Thursday, April 22**

**Keynote on EPA's Efforts in Homeland Security**

*Marianne Horinko*

Marianne Horinko is the Assistant Administrator for the EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER).

Ms. Horinko began by noting that it was the Anniversary of EPA and Earth Day. In the early days of the EPA, things like cleaning up streams and car exhaust was considered most important. Not today.

Global terrorism has added new uncertainties and demands to the EPA. The Exxon Valdez, 9/11 and the anthrax cleanup are all new examples of what new things EPA has to deal with. Each of these events has made the EPA re-evaluate its priorities. Given the nature of terrorism, the future of what is needed to deal with an attack is uncertain. The EPA must assume that its assumptions are incomplete and that future attacks will be different from previous attacks. There are 100s of prospective targets with number of different weapons. Therefore it is nearly impossible to exactly predict what may happen in the event of an attack. She noted that the best way to deal with these uncertainties is to prepare for many possible scenarios. In addition, coordination on site and across agencies is a must. The EPA is committed to this.

Frank Meyerer then asked: "Have health effects of residents of lower Manhattan since 9/11 made EPA reassess air standards?" Horinko answered: "Yes but EPA has put out a report that stated there were no health effects found in residents (not true for responders)."